

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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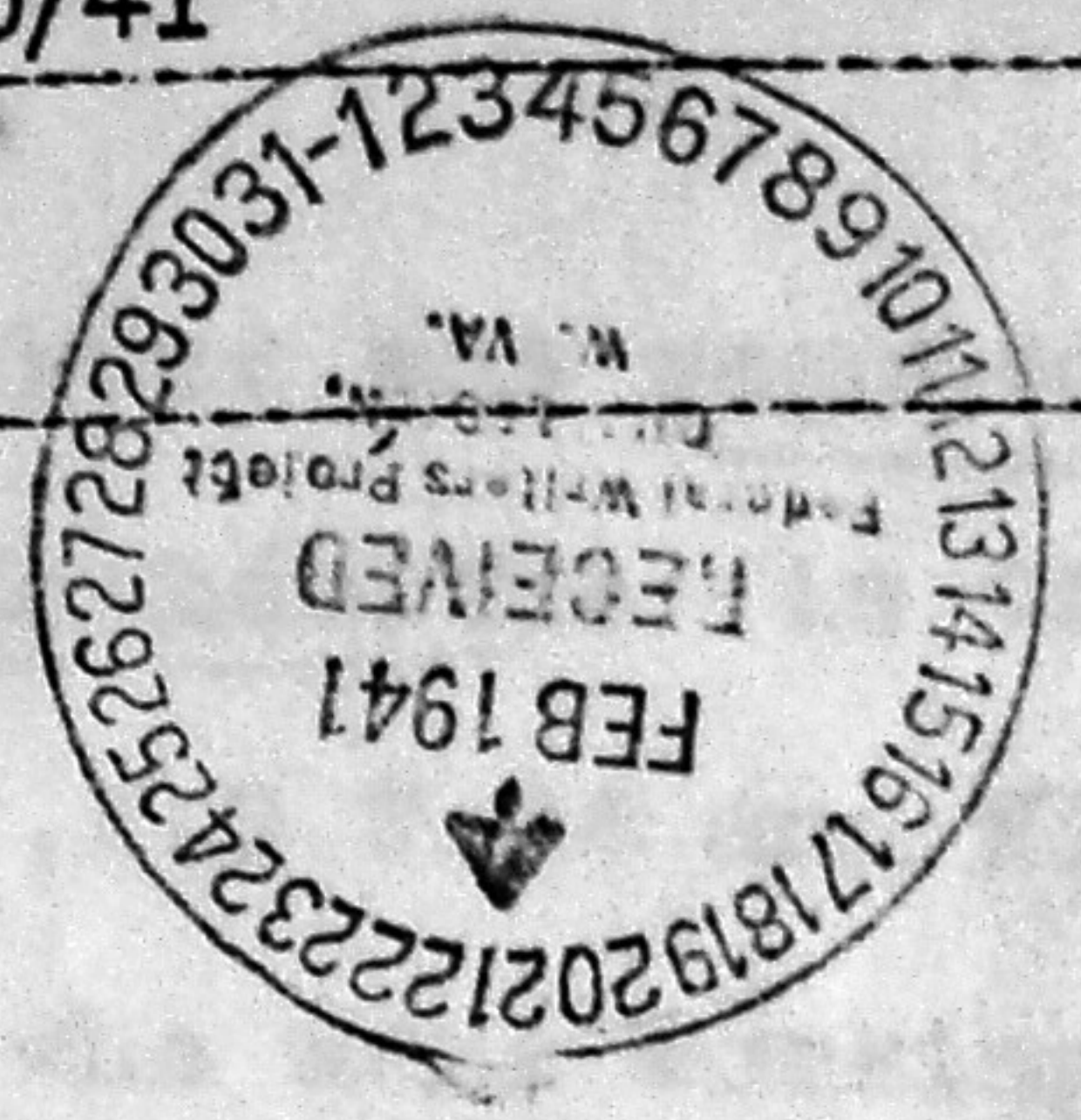
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— COAL —

In 1812 Sheldon Clark of the Levels took up land on Briery Knob and shortly after discovered coal this section is about 4400 feet above sea level, the next thing to do was open this coal up so with the help of Johny B Kennison of Hillsboro and George Lee of Millpoint they built a road from the forks of the road known as the crossroads to the coal bank on Briery Knobb, Sherman, Peter, Alvan, Henry and Preston Clark helped build the road they were sons of Sheldon Clark.

This was a drift mine and the first coal mined there was wagoned to The Little Levels to be used by farmers, stores and by Blacksmiths in their shops, in later years this was operated by Ellis McCarty, K.O Wade and Nick McCoy they having secured a contract with Smith & Whiting who were working for The St. Lawrence Boom & Mfg. Co of Ronceverte who were Manufacturing the white pine of Pocahontas County on the East side of the Greenbrier River, McCarty, Wade and McCoy furnished Smith & Whiting near 150 tons of coal for which they received from \$ 12. to \$14.00 a ton delivered to them at Laurel Run where they were operating at that time this was something like 1884 & 85. *For their log engine named Jesse*

The next mining was done by George Walton as he rented it for a period of five years selling the coal he mined to the Blacksmiths, to stores and for use in private homes after his contract was out Kit Thomas and Norvel W Clark operated the mine in the fall of the year for some two years and after that the mine layed idle for a number of years but in 1934 or 35 S.C Bartholomew leased the mine he of Hillsboro he had the mine reopened track was layed and the coal mined and carted out over this track by hand he employed from 3 to 4 men the year around using more men during the rush season the Government owned land beyond the mine so the C.C.C built a good road to the mine Bartholomew furnishing some trucks when the road was completed this mine did a good business as Bartholomew operated two trucks in the hauling of coal to the many sections of the county Richard Arbogast of Millpoint and Hubert Miller of Hillsboro driving for him, this $\frac{1}{2}$ coal was sold locally to stores, private homes and a vast amount was sold to the Board of Education and was delivered to the many schools

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of Pocahontas County especially The Little Levels school.

Bartholomew paid a royalty of 20 cts. per ton to the Clark heirs. The slack or fine coal was used in burning lime as Bartholomew had a draw kiln at the foot of Droop Mountain which he operated in connection with the coal mine this kiln was on the H.W Beard farm where there is an abundance of limestone of high analysis, and here they put out thousands of tons of burned lime both in the rock and slacked lime that was bought by the farmers of Pocahontas County, Bartholomew employed from 3 to 5 men during the summer months besides his truckers.

The Briery Knob land was sold in 1939 to the United States Of America but reserving the coal, oil gas and other mineral rights and at this time Bartholomew's contract had expired and since that time the mine has been idle as the steel was all taken up and disposed of but this mountain is full of high grade coal and no doubt when other fields are exhausted this mine will be opened up again.

Information. N.W. Clark. Hillsboro. W. Va.

Court Records . Marlinton. W. Va.